

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: C-1  
(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: C-1)  
55 Grand Street  
Jersey City  
Hudson County  
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-71-P

HAER  
NJ  
9-JERC,  
10P-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
Northeast Field Area  
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office  
National Park Service  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER  
NJ  
9-JERC1,  
18P-

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: C-1\*  
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HAER No. NJ-71-P

**Location:** 55 Crand Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

**Significance:** C-1 was used for a variety of manufacturing purposes c1918-86. Although not an individually significant structure, it was significant as a component of the Colgate Jersey City Plant.

**Description:** C-1 was a 50-by-104-foot, seven-story-plus-basement on spread footings, reinforced concrete, classicized building, at the southeast corner of Crand and Creene streets. The structure included a flat roof with an added penthouse on the south end, truck shipping facilities on Creene Street, and former railcar loading facilities on Grand Street. Each corner facade had a tri-partite horizontal division of spaces with base, body and attic. The two-story base had rusticated piers carrying a plain entablature at the second floor ceiling level. Above the second floor, the body of the building extended upwards by means of smooth, unornamented concrete piers which joined together below the entablature. The actual bays were recessed and consisted of horizontal strips of obscure glass block infill windows with set-in hoppers separated by concrete panels with extended sills. The base of the three-bay Grand Street facade had a pedestrian door surmounted by a riveted iron canopy, an alteration of a former truck bay. This door was flanked by large glass block windows set in simple concrete window surrounds. The attic entablature (there was no true attic story) was ornamented with a dentillated frieze and stylized mutules. The fourth floor windows were blocked by a conveyor bridge running along the south side of Grand Street. Most Grand Street facade details reappeared on the five-bay Greene Street facade, except that the latter had an extended elevated shipping platform with an overhead canopy, four truck bays, and flanking pedestrian doors. The two end bays of the Creene Street facade had paired windows divided by a concrete strip (HAER No. NJ-71, C BLOCK TO SOUTHEAST; C-1 AT CENTER FOREGROUND, C-13 AT RIGHT).

Four-by-two rows of round columns divided most of the undecorated interior spaces into three-by-five open bays. There was a mezzanine second-story office space at the north end approached via stairs at the building's northwest corner. The principal stairways were at the northeast and southwest corners, which were also served by elevators; the northeast elevator also served both C-1 and adjacent C-2 (HAER No. NJ-71-Q). Some concrete floor areas had steel plates (Figure 2).

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\* Capitalized reference is to photograph included with HAER No. NJ-71.

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**History:** Colgate & Company purchased the several small brick structures on the C-1 site c1905, early in the large-scale plant expansion of c1903-22. Turner Construction Company built C-1 for the company in 1918. The earlier history of the structure is not well documented. When large scale production of synthetic detergents and cleansers began in the late 1940s, much of the west half of C Block was modified or rebuilt. In 1950-51, C-1 was modified with a penthouse associated with adjacent C-13 (HAER No. NJ-71-Z), the Greene Street truck platforms, the Grand Street railcar loading canopies, and basement soap tanks. C-1 was then used for packaging material manufacture and storage, and package filling of cleansers and spray products. The structure was demolished in 1989.

**Sources:**

**Plans**

All drawings listed below are currently (1991) held by the Colgate-Palmolive Company in the L-1 building at the Jersey City plant (HAER NO. NJ-71-SS). For future access, researchers should contact the company's Office of Corporate Communications, 300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

**Brunnquell Iron Works, Jersey City, N.J.**

- 1962 Colgate-Palmolive Company, Jersey City, N.J., Building C-1. [3 drawings]:  
D1-D3. Pre-Blend Operating Platform Framing, Building C-1-7
- 1964 Colgate-Palmolive Company, Jersey City, N.J., Building C-1.  
[6 drawings]:  
D1-D6. 6th and 7th Floors, Steel Plate Flooring.

**Colgate & Company/Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company**

- 1917 Proposed Mezzanine Floor Plan, C-1 Building. Dwg No. 2-1105.
- 1950 C-1 Building - New Grand Street R.R. Spur. Proposed Platform and Fire Exit, Package Handling Conveyors. Dwg. No. 2-3073.

**Davey, Warren, engineer**

- 1917 Colgate & Company/Building C-1, Jersey City, N.J. Detail of Proposed Lettering.

**Lafayette Iron Works, Inc.**

- 1951 Buildings C-1 and C-2, Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company. [3 unnumbered plans]:  
Canopy Erection Plan.  
Shop Details - Canopy.  
Steel Erection Plan - Loading Platforms and Structural Changes

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Seaberg Elevator Company, New York, N.Y.

1963 Colgate-Palmolive Company, Building C-1. Electric Freight Elevator. Dwg. No. 63-1793.

Weed, Lloyd W. and Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co., Central Engineering Division  
1948-50 Alterations to Building C-1/Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company, Jersey City, N.J. [4 drawings]:

107-1. Kirkman's Flakes, Jersey City. Alterations to Building Floor and Roof, First Floor and Penthouse.

139-1. General Plan.

139-2. Penthouse.

139-3. Penthouse Details.

Weed, Lloyd W., George E. DiCesare and Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company, Central Engineering Division

1950 Building C-1, Electrical-Lighting Plan. [set of unnumbered drawings, first floor through penthouse].

Weed, Lloyd W. and Turner Construction Company

1916-17 Colgate & Company/Building C-1, Jersey City, N.J. [19 drawings, with drawing numbers]:

E7-E9. 4th-6th Floor Plans.

593-1. Footing Plan.

593-1a. Basement Walls.

593-[?]. Basement Plan.

593-[?]. First Floor Plan.

593-2. Grand Street and East Elevation.

593-4. Greene Street Elevation.

593-7. Typical Floor, 2nd to 6th Included.

593-8. Roof Plan.

593-9. Column Schedule.

593-10. Column Details.

593-10a. Column Details.

593-11. Northeast Stairs.

593-11a. Southwest Stair Details.

593-11b. Northeast and Southwest Stair Details

593-[?]. Detail of Penthouses.

593-13. Cornice Details.

### Bibliography

Colgate-Palmolive-Company

1986 Jersey City Plant/ECRA-II (Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act) Site Evaluation Submission: Appendix B.

Associated Mutual Insurance Company

1922 Colgate & Co. (Soap and Toilet Supplies). Surveyed November 8, 1922.

Factory Mutual Engineering Association - Factory Mutual System.

1962-79 Colgate-Palmolive Company. "Jersey City Plant." Serial No. 70516-B, Index 29368.

Hopkins, C.M., & Co.

1908 Atlas of Hudson County, New Jersey. Vol. 1. Philadelphia.

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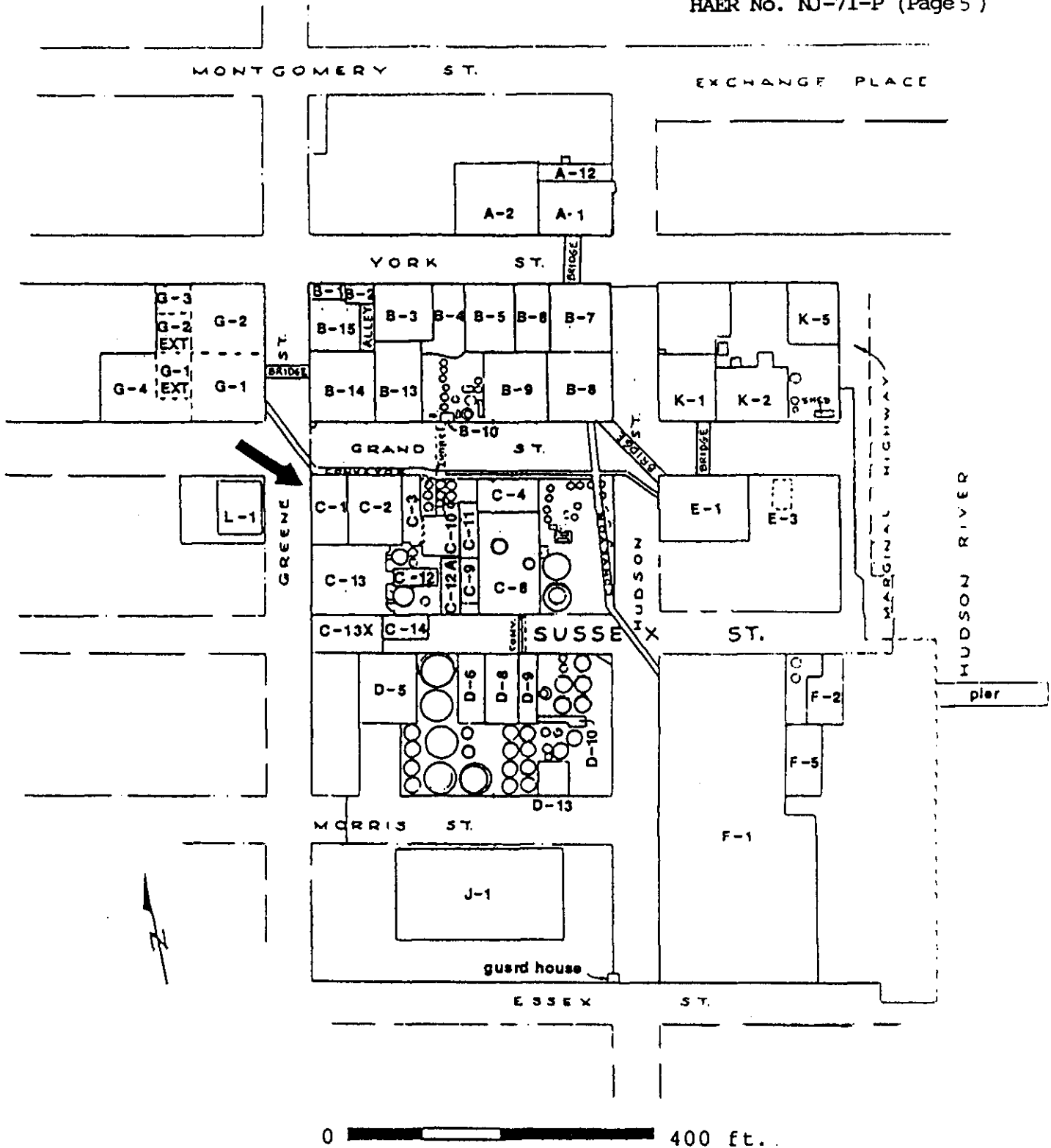


Figure 1. LOCATION OF C-1 AT COLGATE JERSEY CITY PLANT

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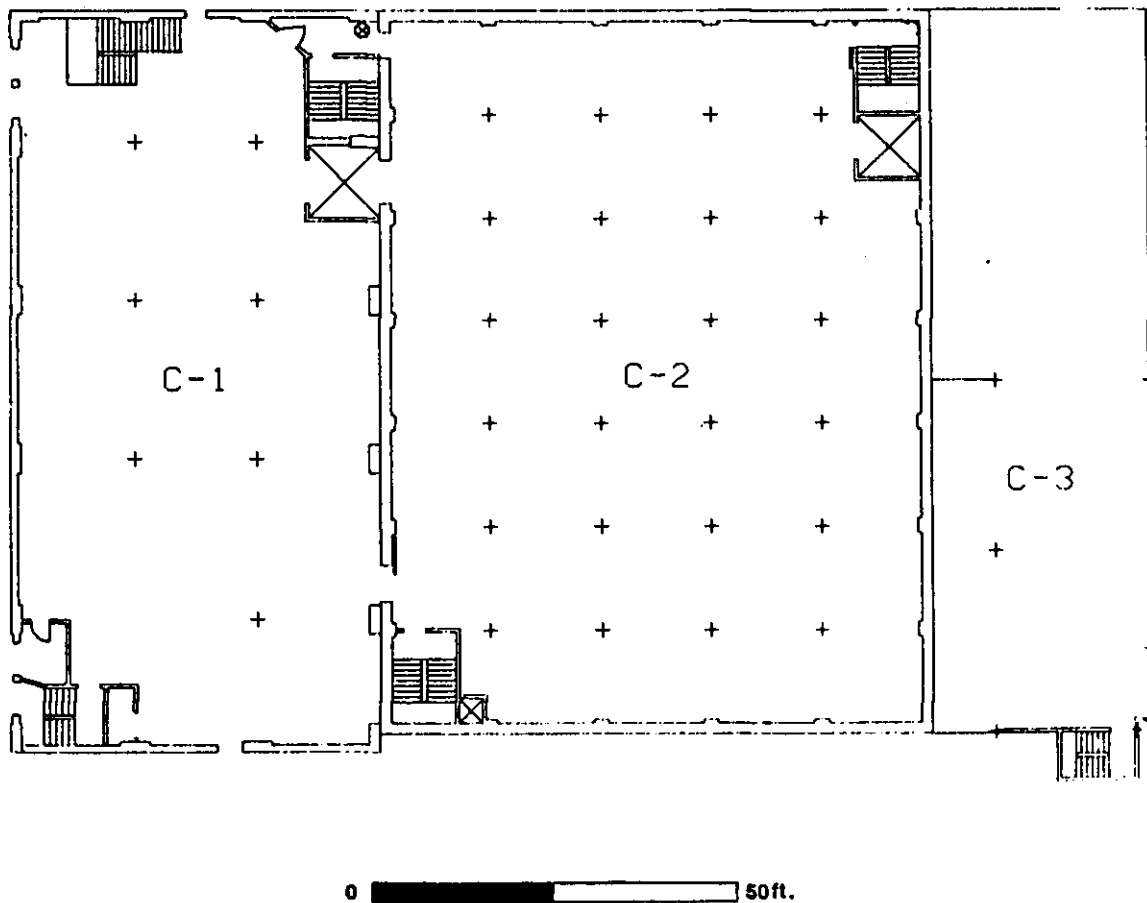


Figure 2. FIRST FLOOR PLANS OF C-1, C-2, AND C-3